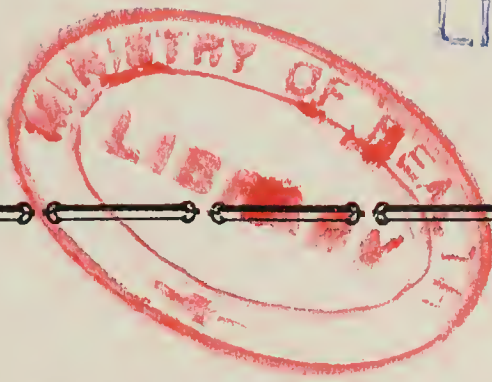


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RURAL DISTRICT.**

*Salop*

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**Annual Report**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of**

**Health**

**For 1938.**



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# Wellington

## Rural Council.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1938.

The Birth Rate has maintained its standard and associated with this is the great improvement in the Infantile Mortality Rate. The Death Statistics show that the area approximates to the average for the Country.

Sanitary Matters are dealt with in each section of the report and, where necessary, the divisions have been enlarged and comments made.

Incorporated in the Report is a summary of the work carried out by the Officers, and I take this opportunity of thanking them for their care and attention in carrying out the duties of their office.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

**W. A. M. STEWART,**

M.B. L R.C.P. D.P.H.

22nd June, 1939.

### Sanitary Officers.

W. A. M. STEWART

Medical Officer of Health

J. T. ADAMS

Senior Sanitary Inspector

I. ROBERTS

Sanitary Inspector

### Section A.      **Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.**

Area (in acres)	...	...	54,399
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population Mid 1938	...	...	15,950
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	...	...	4,449
Rateable value	...	...	£50,943
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£207
Number of persons per acre calculated on the population	...	...	.29

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—While little change has taken place in the Social Conditions of the district in the year, there has been merely a lull. With the incoming of Military Schemes into the Donnington Area Industrialism will have encroached further into the rural parts. With the expected influx of people social conditions will be noticably changed, provision must be made for educational, recreation and domestic needs, while the housing in the environs must of necessity be extensive. Employment should be well maintained and this should apply to both the male and female population.

### Vital Statistics.

		M.	F.	Totals	
Live Births:	Legitimate	130	136	266	} Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 17.0
	Illegitimate	3	3	6	
				<hr/> 272	
Still Births :	Legitimate	2	5	7	} Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 28.5
	Illegitimate	0	1	1	
				<hr/> 8	
Deaths		106	104	210	

Death rate per 1000 of estimated resident population 13.1.

Deaths from puerperal causes : 0.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—		M.	F.
All Infants per 1000 live births	47.7	10	3
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	48.8	10	3
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births		0	0

Deaths from Cancer, all ages	...	...	33
„ Measles, all ages	...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough, all ages	...	...	0
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)			0

POPULATION.—The estimated Mid Year population shows an increase of 20 on the calculated Mid Year population for 1937.

BIRTHS.—The number of live births (272) shows an increase of 7 over that for 1937.

Birth rate per 1000 resident population	1936	16.5
„ „ „ „	1937	16.6
„ „ „ „	1938	17.0
Birth rate England and Wales	1938	15.1



DEATHS.—The number of deaths from all causes was 210 (M. 106, F. 104) compared with 249 in 1937 and 208 in 1936. The crude death rate 13.1 after considering the Areal Comparability Factor 0.88 (supplied by the Registrar-General) gives an adjusted death rate of 11.5.

Death rate (adjusted) for 1936	...	11.3
„ „ for 1937	...	13.7
„ „ England and Wales		11.6

The principal causes of death were ;—

Digestive Disorders	...	...	7
Nephritis	...	...	6
Congenital Debility and Premature Births		...	6
Senility	...	...	9
Suicide	...	...	1
Other Violence	...	...	9
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	24
Heart Disease	...	...	54
Other Circulatory Disturbances		...	15
Pneumonia	...	...	16
Other causes (excluding infective conditions)		...	22

Deaths from Infective conditions :—

Influenza	...	...	5
Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)		...	1
G.P.I	...	...	2
Cancer	...	...	33

The above grouping of causes of death shows that there were no outstanding variations from that of 1937 with the exception of Tuberculosis (Phthisis), for which no deaths were returned, and Deaths in Infants, where there was a considerable fall. Influenza showed some decrease.

There were no deaths from the common infectious diseases :— Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

Death rates for per 1000 population	Tuberculosis (Phthisis)	and Cancer
1928-32	.54	1.33
1932-36	.56	1.30
1937	.68	2.21
1938	(no deaths)	2.0

Infantile Mortality rate ;—

	1936	...	52	per 1000 live births
	1937	...	79	
	1938	...	47.7	
England and Wales	1938	...	53	

Causes of death in Infants under 1 year were :—

Pneumonia	...	...	...	5
Convulsions	...	...	...	1
Prematurity	...	...	...	3
Lung Disease (other than Pneumonia)				2
Intestinal Disease	...	...	...	1
Malnutrition	...	...	...	1

## Section B. **General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

1—Officers (Public Health) see page 1.

2—Laboratory facilities: For diagnosis in illness, Swabs and other material are sent to the University Laboratory, Birmingham, Water analyses are performed by the Harper Adams College, Newport, and in certain cases by the County Analyst, Chester.

3—Ambulance facilities: There is no ambulance in the district. Adjoining the Newport district the ambulance of that Urban Authority is available for non-infectious cases. Co-ordination is also obtained through the Oakengates Ambulance Association. Infectious cases are removed by the Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

Mortuary: The Ministry of Health have approved the proposed Mortuary at Newport, which will be held jointly by the Local Authority and Newport U.D.C. to serve the east side of the district. A similar provision is under consideration and negotiations are being carried through between the Authority and Wellington U.D.C. with a view to providing a joint Mortuary at Wellington.

4—Treatment Centres and Clinics: No centres are provided in the district but those at Newport, Oakengates and Wellington are available with the usual County services.

5—Hospitals: There are no hospitals in the area. A private Charitable Institution is available under certain circumstances for aged ladies and young children. This is situated at Preston. The young children are trained for certain occupational pursuits.

## Section C. **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

(a) WATER.—The water supplies are well developed on the South and East sides of the district—the industrial areas. In other parts of the Wellington R.D.C. the supplies are mainly from wells and bore-holes. These are subject to frequent examination and, as far as possible, defects are remedied. Attention has been paid to the water supplies at Admaston, where additional services have been provided with extension of mains.

Total number of Parishes with a Satisfactory Water Supply 9  
HADLEY. Situated in the Wellington U.D.C. Water area has a piped supply.

WELLINGTON RURAL. The village of Ketley is partly situated in the Wellington U.D.C. Water area and has a piped supply from there ; the upper part including the village of Lawley has a piped supply from Wenlock Borough through the Dawley U.D.C. Mains.

Aston has a piped supply provided by the Estate.

New Works.—The village of New Works has no satisfactory water supply, but a joint scheme with the Wenlock Borough is in preparation.

WROCKWARDINE. This parish, which includes the villages of Admaston and Bratton, takes its supply from the Wellington U.D.C. reservoir by gravitation.

The supply at Rushmoor Lane is unsatisfactory, but is receiving attention.

KYNNERSLEY. Kynnersley is supplied from a well on the upper part of the village, 43 ft. in depth and pumped by a windmill to a brick and cement tank—capacity 8,000 gallons. (Private supply).

HIGH ERCALL. The village of Roden in the parish of High Ercall has a good piped supply to all the houses from two bore holes into the Bunter Beds. It is pumped by a 3 h.p. oil engine through a 4 inch main to a storage tank. Well yields 900 gallons per hour without lowering water level. (Supply by Co-operative Wholesale Society).

LILLESHALL. Piped supply from borehole.

EDGMOND.           ,,       ,,       ,,       ,,

CHETWYND ASTON. Piped supply by Newport U.D.C.

CHURCH ASTON.       ,,       ,,       ,,       ,,       ,,

GENERAL. 16 boreholes have been provided in various villages. These are primarily intended to serve the needs of Council houses.

(b) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The Ketley Scheme has been completed and houses are being connected to new sewers. This system is worked on a combined scheme—the disposal works being situated on the existing Hadley Sewage Farm. The works comprise sedimentative tanks and land treatment. Lawley Works are now completed ; these consist of sedimentative tanks and percolating filters. The change from conversancy is being pushed forward. Donnington Works—These are rapidly nearing completion. In the course of construction it was found necessary to meet the needs of the district by the construction of a temporary lagoon system, which has functioned well. These works have necessitated the laying of some 5,000 yards of sewer-line in the Donnington, Muxton, Donnington Wood and Ketley areas.



The following is an Account furnished by the Surveyor of Sanitary work for the year ending 31st December, 1938, in the Wellington Rural Sanitary District.

Houses connected to public water supply	...	...	72
Private wells re-constructed or improved	...	...	2
Houses connected to public sewerage	...	Estimated	45
Lengths of new sewers laid—Schemes nearing completion			
			4,250 line yards
Lengths of new water mains laid	...	...	170 yards

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Total number of Parishes with a Scheme for Disposal of Sewage	4
Total number of Parishes without a Scheme for Disposal of Sewage	16

Name of Parish	Method of Disposal
Hadley	Hadley Sewage Farm, Tanks, land irrigation, Crow Brook Trench Sewage Farm, Tanks, land irrigation, Crow Brook
Wellington Rural	Ketley, Hadley Sewage Farm, Tanks, land irrigation, Crow Brook Lawley, Tanks, filter beds, Ketley Brook (in course of construction)
Wrockwardine	Admaston and Bratton, Tanks, land irrigation, Stream
Lilleshall	Donnington, Tanks, filter beds, Humbers Brook (in course of construction)
Edgmond	Part of the village drains to a small septic tank and filter system

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The water courses in the area receiving effluent from sewage disposal works are kept under constant and regular supervision and any possibility of nuisance is reduced to a minimum.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Improvement in the conservancy system should be noticeable when the full benefit of the new sewers in the Ketley, Lawley and Donnington areas are fully completed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—This is still carried through on the indirect labour system. The services were extended to the Parish of Edgmond. While this service does not provide for the whole district, the areas covered are satisfactorily met.



## SCAVENGING

Total number of parishes where a Scavenging Scheme is in operation	...	...	...	...	...	4
Total number of parishes without a Scavenging Scheme	...					16

Parish	No. of houses in parish	No. of houses not served by scheme	Method of collecting refuse
Hadley	981	92	By contract
Wellington Rural	1017	33	"
Edgmond	252	22	"
Lilleshall	709		"

The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary work for the year ending 31st December, 1938, in the Wellington Rural Sanitary District.

Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey	...	...	...	1132
Number of informal notices sent	...	...	Verbal and	
Number of such notices complied with	...	...	letters not	
Number of letters written	...	...	recorded	

*Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in the above Notices :—*

<i>a</i> Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	20
<i>b</i> Deficient or objectionable water supply	...	5
<i>c</i> New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	...	10
<i>d</i> New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	...	1
<i>e</i> Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	...	37
<i>f</i> Offensive accumulations of all kinds	...	7
<i>g</i> Unsuitable refuse receptacles replaced with regulation dust-bins	...	15
<i>h</i> Water courses, ditches, ponds and gutters foul or choked or silted up	...	8
<i>i</i> Nuisances arising from tents, vans, sheds or similar structures used for human habitation	...	5
Houses disinfected after infectious Disease (other than phthisis)	...	18
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis	...	2
Privies converted to water closets	...	4

SHOPS AND OFFICES.—The heating of a local works was under consideration, when the question of best temperature for particular work was discussed and suggestions made.

**CAMPING SITES**—Two sites were licenced and used for camping. These sites were used for camping on a small scale, and there were never more than 2 caravans at one time on each. Indiscriminate camping by itinerant persons has been discouraged, and licences have in certain cases been refused.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.**—No action has been necessary.

**SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.**—There are none in area.

**ERADICATION OF BED BUGS** —There have been no cases brought to the notice of the Authority, but provision is made, where necessary, for the use of Zaldecide spray in such cases.

**SCHOOLS.**—The school at High Ercall has been under consideration for improvement of the existing lavatory arrangements, but as a small sewerage disposal work is in contemplation, this complaint is expected to be remedied during the year.

The following schools were closed for infectious diseases during the year :—

Rodington C. of E.	Scarlet Fever	14--28, 10-38.
Ketley Council Juniors	Diphtheria	23-2-38—4-3-38.
Sambrook	Measles	4—8, 4-38.
Rodington C. of E.	Measles	30-6-38—8-7-38

## Section D. **Housing.**

The Wrockwardine housing scheme has been completed; this comprised 8 houses; these dealt with certain cases of slum clearance and overcrowding. Schemes in contemplation and in progress provide for 44 houses at Hadley adjoining the Parkdale Estate, 22 at Lawley Bank, 108 at Mannerley Lane and the Rock, Ketley, (tenders are accepted), 50 for Donnington Wood area which are expected to be advertised shortly. These schemes when completed will meet the requirements of the Slum Clearance and Overcrowding programme. Some private development has been seen at Hadley, Ketley and Edgmond.

### **1—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—**

1. *a* Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ... 610
- b* Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 622
2. *a* Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-32 ... 0

## 2—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence  
of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 20

## 3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

### a Proceedings under sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were  
served requiring repairs ... 20

2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after  
service of formal notices :—

a—by owners ... 20

b—by Local Authority in default of owners ... 0

### b Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were  
served requiring defects to be remedied ... 28

2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied  
after service of formal notices :—

a—by owners 20

b—by Local Authority in default of owners ... 0

### c Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

1 Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition  
Orders were made ... 4

2 Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of  
Demolition Orders ... 2

d Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... 0

## 4—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

a (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 10

Plans for new houses passed ... 106

Certain cases in the Donnington Wood area have been the  
subject of investigation and it is expected that complaints will be  
remedied when the housing scheme (contemplated) has been  
completed.

## Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### a MILK SUPPLIES.

Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on register ... 261

Number of premises—cowsheds ... Not  
dairies ... recorded  
milkshops ... 0

Number of above cowkeepers and milksellers who hold licenses under  
the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, in respect of :—

### a—Establishment of producers' and bottlers—Tuberculin

Tested ... 4

Accredited ... 4

b—Establishments of producers only—Accredited ... 57



Number of Inspections	...	...	...	270
Defects found	1—in cowsheds			
	<i>a</i> —floor and cubic space	...	...	16
	<i>b</i> —ventilation	...	...	19
	<i>c</i> —lighting	...	...	17
	<i>d</i> —structure of floor	...	...	16
	<i>e</i> —drainage	...	...	17
	<i>f</i> —cleanliness	...	...	8
	2—in surrounding of cowsheds	...	...	9
	3—in sanitary condition of drains		...	17
	4—in water supply	...	...	15
Number of notices—verbal and written		...	6 N., 19 V.	
Number of these notices complied with		...	...	8
Number of defects found and not yet remedied		...	...	17

A comprehensive survey has been carried out, and every effort is being made to get all cowsheds up to the accredited standard.

### *b* MEAT INSPECTION.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	No records kept			
Number inspected	"	"		
Whole carcasses condemned	"	"	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned—2 Cows.				
1.—Number of Slaughter Houses in district			...	16
2.—Number of persons Licensed to stun and slaughter animals in slaughter houses and knackers' yards			...	29

Owing to the extent of the district and the very scattered distribution of the private slaughterhouses, and in some cases the intermittent character of the slaughtering, it is most difficult to keep the records desired. The slaughterhouses are regularly visited, particularly in the parts of the district that are more urban in character. The quality of meat is very good, special inspection being requested in any case of a doubtful nature.

## Section F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1938.

Disease	Total Cases Notified		Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	1938	1937		
Scarlet Fever	35	18	22	0
Diphtheria	12	42	6	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	0	0
Pneumonia	36	24	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0	0

Notifiable rate for 1,000 population

Scarlet Fever	2.2.	England and Wales	2.41
Diphtheria	.75	"	1.58

### Age Incidence ;—

Years	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Acute Poliomyelitis
0—1	0	0	2	0	0	0
1—2	0	0	1	0	0	0
2—3	1	0	0	0	0	0
3—4	3	0	1	0	0	0
4—5	0	0	2	0	0	0
5—10	17	8	7	0	0	1
10—15	11	4	3	0	0	1
15—20	2	0	3	0	1	0
20—35	1	0	6	2	0	0
35—45	0	0	2	1	0	0
45—65	0	0	8	0	1	0
over 65	0	0	1	0	0	0

Ophthalmia Neonatorum 2

Dysentery 1

With the fall in the incidence of cases of diphtheria, which may be ascribed to the very considerable number of cases which have been immunised in the district, there has been an almost corresponding rise in scarlet fever.

The notification figures for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria have been given elsewhere and it will be noted that in spite of the considerable rise in the forms the average is below that of England and Wales.

The Table of Age Incidence gives some idea of the cause of the spread of cases, both common infectious diseases take their main grouping in school children, suggesting spread at school or at play. The general dissemination of both diseases was wide, Scarlet Fever predominating in the Hadley, Kynnersley, Rodington and Donnington Wood districts, while Diphtheria was, perhaps, more confined to industrial parts.

Another important element in the consideration of Scarlet Fever is the generally mild nature of the illness, this leads to cases being considered of little moment, are not notified by parents, and, are liable to spread further infection. The table on age incidence hardly represents the full scope of this disease to attack various age groups and it is for this reason that segregation becomes important, although the illness is mild. The contrast in death-rate for Diphtheria .07 and Scarlet Fever is interesting. As recorded elsewhere there were no deaths from Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria in the district.

The closure of Newport Isolation Hospital which is used jointly with the Newport U.D.C. is to be regretted as it is in some ways well suited for segregation of mild cases where isolation is the primary consideration.

During the year there was a considerable epidemic of jaundice at the High Ercall School which was investigated (in association with the County Medical Officer) The proposed sewage disposal scheme in preparation should help to minimise any possibility of recurrence of this complaint.

Two cases of Infantile Paralysis and one of Glandular Fever were noted.

Cases immunised for Diphtheria 662. Of these 25 pre-school children. Total since inception of scheme 1323. At the beginning T.A.M. was used but this has been changed to A.P.T.

## Tuberculosis.

Age period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—5	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
5—15	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
15—25	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
35—45	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over 65	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	6	4	1	0	0	1	0

Cases remaining on Register at end of 1938 :—

Males		Females		Total
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
47	44	42	56	189
1937 47	41	41	56	185

## Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health,  
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories with Mechanical power	30	0	0
Factories without Mechanical power	9	0	0
	39	0	0

2—Defects found—Nil.





